

Isaiah 48:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

Analysis

The accusation 'thou wast called a transgressor from the womb' asserts original sin - sinfulness from conception, not merely bad choices later. This foundational doctrine (Psalm 51:5) explains why human effort cannot save and why new birth is necessary. The name 'transgressor from the womb' demolishes all merit theology and establishes the necessity of sovereign grace.

Historical Context

This explains Israel's persistent rebellion despite covenant privileges - it wasn't merely bad examples but inborn corruption. Paul systematically develops this doctrine in Romans 5:12-19, tracing sin to Adam.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your identity as 'transgressor from the womb' humble your self-righteousness?
2. What implications does original sin have for how you raise children and understand human nature?

Interlinear Text

פָּתַח ה	אֵין בָּ	כִּי	כִּי	בְּגַד
was not opened	not yea from that time that thine ear	H3588	for I knew	H901
H6605	H241		H3045	

לְבָא מִבֵּין וְפִשְׁעָנָךְ תַּבְגֵּן וְדַתְּךָ
that thou wouldest deal very a transgressor from the womb and wast called
H898 H6586 H990 H7121 H0

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 58:3 (Parallel theme): The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Jeremiah 6:10 (Parallel theme): To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Malachi 2:11 (Parallel theme): Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.

Hosea 5:7 (Parallel theme): They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

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